

4 October, 2026 – 27th Sunday in Ord. Time (A Cycle)

Is 5:1–7; Phil 4:6–9; Mt 21:33–43

INTRODUCTION

A young boy once planted a tiny grapevine with his grandfather. Every morning he ran outside to see if it had grown. One day he became frustrated and said, “Nothing is happening!” The grandfather smiled and replied, “Roots grow in silence before fruit appears.” Years later that vine covered the whole garden with sweet grapes.

Today’s readings speak to us about God’s vineyard — about the loving care with which God nurtures our lives and about the fruit he hopes to find in us. Through Isaiah, Jesus, and Saint Paul, we are reminded that God never stops investing in us, even when we disappoint him.

We are also invited to look honestly at the fruits our lives are producing: are they fruits of kindness, justice, gratitude, and peace, or sour grapes of selfishness, bitterness, and indifference?

As we begin this Eucharist, let us open the vineyard of our hearts to the Lord who alone can heal, prune, renew, and make us fruitful. Let us acknowledge our sins and ask for his mercy.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are the faithful gardener who never gives up on your vineyard: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the rejected stone who became the cornerstone of our salvation: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you fill anxious hearts with the peace that surpasses all understanding: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who patiently tends the vineyard of our lives and calls us again to bear the fruits of love and holiness, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Because God has not abandoned his vineyard but continues to bless us with mercy, hope, and peace, let us now raise our voices in praise and sing together:

COLLECT

O God,
who in your unfailing love care for the vineyard of your people
and through your Son, the rejected stone made cornerstone,
call us to bear fruits of justice, peace, and holiness,
grant that, trusting in your providence
and bringing all our worries before you in prayer,
we may grow ever more faithful in your service
and fruitful in works of love.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A tourist once visited an old European village famous for its vineyards. As he walked through the narrow streets, he noticed an elderly man sitting beside a weathered stone wall, quietly repairing it. Some stones were smooth and beautiful; others were cracked, rough, and oddly shaped. Curious, the tourist asked, “Why keep the broken stones? Why not throw them away and build with new ones?”

The old man smiled and held up one of the rejected stones. “Because sometimes the stone that seems useless is the one that holds the whole wall together.”

Then he added softly, “And people are often like that too.”

That little scene captures the heart of today’s readings.

The prophet Isaiah sings what begins like a love song but slowly turns into a lament. God is portrayed as a vineyard owner who spared no effort for his vineyard. He dug the soil, removed the stones, planted the finest vines, built a

watchtower, and prepared a winepress. He did everything possible so that the vineyard would bear sweet grapes. Yet it produced only sour grapes.

Isaiah's listeners were initially delighted. During the joyful harvest festival in Jerusalem they expected entertainment, perhaps a cheerful song about love and wine. Instead, Isaiah held up a mirror before the people. The vineyard was not just a vineyard. The vineyard was Israel itself. God had invested everything into his people, yet instead of justice there was bloodshed; instead of righteousness there were cries of distress.

Jesus takes up the same image in today's Gospel and intensifies it. The vineyard owner sends servant after servant to collect the fruit, but the tenants beat them, stone them, and kill them. Finally, he sends his own son. "They will respect my son," he says. But the tenants throw the son out of the vineyard and kill him.

Jesus is speaking about himself. He is the beloved Son who would soon be dragged outside the walls of Jerusalem

and crucified. He is the rejected stone that became the cornerstone.

The tragedy in both Isaiah and the Gospel is not that God failed to love. The tragedy is that people failed to respond.

And yet, even in these severe readings, there is something astonishing about God: God never stops investing in his vineyard.

Again and again, throughout salvation history, God keeps reaching out. He sends prophets. He sends his Son. He sends the Holy Spirit. Even after rejection, God does not abandon humanity.

One of the English reflections beautifully says: "What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?" That question should echo in every heart today.

God could ask each of us personally: "I gave you life. I gave you faith. I gave you people who loved you. I gave

you chances to begin again. I gave you my Son in the Eucharist. What more could I have done?"

And perhaps the most uncomfortable part is that the vineyard often still produces sour grapes.

We see it in society. We live in a world overflowing with technology and wealth, yet filled with loneliness, anxiety, violence, exploitation, and division. Isaiah's warnings sound remarkably modern: greed that buys up everything at the expense of the poor, endless entertainment that numbs the soul, calling evil good and good evil.

But before pointing at society, today's Gospel invites us to look into our own hearts.

What kind of fruit is my life producing?

Am I producing the fruits God longs to see — love, patience, mercy, integrity, purity, kindness, generosity?

Or have resentment, selfishness, bitterness, addiction, indifference, and anxiety taken over the vineyard of my heart?

Saint Paul, in the second reading, offers us a path forward.

It is striking that Paul writes these words from prison. He is uncertain whether he will live or die, and yet he writes:

"Do not worry about anything."

That sounds impossible at first.

Because many people today are exhausted by worry. Some drown their anxieties in alcohol, entertainment, endless noise, overwork, or constant distraction. Others carry silent fears about family, health, loneliness, finances, or the future.

Paul does not deny these struggles. Instead, he tells us what to do with them:

“Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude.”

Notice the realism of Paul.

He does not say, “Pretend your worries do not exist.” He says, “Bring them to God.”

Bring them in every situation. Bring them persistently. Bring them honestly. Bring them with trust. Bring them with thanksgiving.

That changes everything.

There is a beautiful story about a woman who constantly complained about her teenage children. “They never speak kindly to me,” she said. “They treat me like a servant.” Then suddenly she paused and said, “Well... a few weeks ago my son did say one kind thing to me.”

The priest listening replied, “Then begin there. Thank God for that one moment.”

That is precisely Paul’s wisdom.

Gratitude changes the heart.

If we focus only on what is wrong, our hearts slowly become bitter. But when we deliberately notice what is true, noble, pure, lovable, and worthy of praise, something shifts within us.

Paul says:

“Fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure.”

How different this is from the spirit of our age.

News cycles thrive on outrage. Social media magnifies anger. Conversations often revolve around criticism and negativity.

Yet Paul invites Christians to train the mind differently.

A teacher once corrected exam papers in an unusual way. Whenever he found an especially beautiful answer, he

wrote in large letters beside it: “GOOD!” The students never forgot it. Most teachers only marked mistakes. But this teacher deliberately highlighted what was right.

That is how God deals with us.

Yes, God sees our sins clearly. But he also sees the hidden good, the small acts of love, the quiet sacrifices, the unnoticed kindness, the struggling faith that continues to trust.

One day, Saint Paul says, each person “will receive praise from God.” Imagine that.

God himself looking at the good in us.

That is why Jesus never gave up on sinners. He saw beyond failure. He saw what grace could still accomplish.

And this gives hope to all of us who sometimes feel like rejected stones.

Perhaps someone here feels discarded, overlooked, or disappointed with themselves. Perhaps you feel your life has not produced the fruit you hoped for. Perhaps you carry regrets.

The Gospel today says: the rejected stone can become the cornerstone.

God specializes in rebuilding lives.

He can bring fruitfulness out of failure. He can bring peace out of anxiety. He can bring hope out of disappointment. He can turn wounded people into sources of grace.

But for that to happen, we must let him into the vineyard.

We must stop resisting the owner. We must stop pretending the vineyard belongs only to us. We must allow Christ to prune, heal, and renew us.

And the wonderful promise is this: when we begin to hand our worries, wounds, and failures over to God, Paul says,

“the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts.”

Not necessarily the removal of every problem. But a deep peace in the midst of them.

A peace the world cannot explain.

There is one final image worth holding onto.

An old monastery once had a vineyard that suffered terribly after a violent storm. Branches were broken, vines uprooted, and stones scattered everywhere. A young monk looked at the devastation and said to the elderly gardener, “It will never recover.”

The old gardener bent down, picked up a damaged vine, and replied, “Do not judge the vineyard too quickly. The roots are still alive.”

That is the message of today.

Sometimes the vineyard of our lives looks damaged.

Sometimes the Church looks wounded. Sometimes the world appears barren.

But the roots are still alive.

Because Christ is alive. The rejected stone has become the cornerstone. The Lord still walks through his vineyard. The Lord is still near. And God never stops working patiently for fruit in our lives.

So today let us ask for three graces:

The grace to recognize all that God has done for us. The grace to bear the fruits God desires. And the grace to trust that even rejected stones can become cornerstones in the hands of God. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United in the faith of the Church, and trusting in the God who never ceases to work in the vineyard of our lives, let us now profess our faith.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (for personal meditation only)

I believe in God, the loving Father,
who planted the vineyard of creation
and entrusted this world to our care.

I believe that he never abandons his people,
but continues to nourish us with mercy, patience, and
grace.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord,
the rejected stone who became the cornerstone of our
salvation.

He entered the vineyard of our wounded world,
carried our sins upon the cross,
and through his Resurrection opened for us the way to new
life.

In him we discover that no failure is final
and no human heart is beyond renewal.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who quietly works within us like living roots beneath the
soil,

bringing forth the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, and self-control.

The Spirit teaches us to bring our anxieties before God in
trust
and fills our hearts with the peace that surpasses all
understanding.

I believe in the holy catholic Church,
called to be a fruitful vineyard in the world,
a community built upon Christ the cornerstone,
where sinners find mercy,
the broken find healing,
and the rejected discover hope.

I believe in the forgiveness of sins,
the communion of saints,
the resurrection of the dead,
and life everlasting,
where God will gather the harvest of all who remained
faithful to his love.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice, offered with grateful hearts and trusting prayer, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the gifts we bring before you from the vineyard of our lives,
and as you transform bread and wine into the saving
mystery of Christ, transform also our hearts,
that we may bear fruits pleasing to you:
fruits of peace, gratitude, justice, and love.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you formed us in love
and planted us as your vineyard in the world,
entrusting us with the gifts of life, faith, and grace.

Again and again, when we wandered from your ways,
you called us back through the prophets
and in the fullness of time sent us your beloved Son.
Though rejected by human hands,
he became the cornerstone of our salvation,
bringing peace to anxious hearts
and hope to all who seek you with trust.
Through him you continue to pour out your Spirit upon your
people, that our lives may bear fruits of holiness, justice,
mercy, and love.
And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Trusting in the Father who lovingly cares for the vineyard
of our lives and gives peace to those who place their
worries in his hands, let us pray with confidence:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the bitterness, anxiety, and selfishness
that prevent us from bearing good fruit,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the cornerstone who unites what is broken
and the source of that peace which surpasses all
understanding;
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance
with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, the beloved Son sent into the
vineyard of the world for our salvation.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, you have entered the vineyard of our hearts
once again. Where there is bitterness, plant love.

Where there is fear, plant trust.

Where there is anxiety, plant peace.

Where there is emptiness, plant hope.

Make our lives fruitful through your presence,
so that others may taste in us
the sweetness of your grace and mercy. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly sacrament, O Lord,
strengthen us in faith and peace,
so that, nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we may become fruitful branches in your vineyard
and witnesses to your love in the world.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord, who patiently tends the vineyard of your life,
fill your hearts with peace,
make you fruitful in every good work,
and strengthen you to live in truth, gratitude, and love.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by the fruits of your life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The rejected stone became the cornerstone.”

No life is beyond God’s ability to renew.

If we place our worries, wounds, and failures into his
hands,

he can still make our lives bear beautiful fruit.

5 October, 2026 – Mon., 27th Week in Ord. Time

Gal 1:6–12; Lk 10:25–37

Compassion that crosses boundaries gives life.

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a commuter collapsed on a crowded train platform during the morning rush. Many noticed him, but most moved on, assuming someone else would help. It was a young cleaner, unnoticed by almost everyone, who stopped, stayed beside him, and helped save his life. Later he simply said, “He needed someone.”

Often, we expect compassion to come from the important, the powerful, or the qualified. Yet the Gospel reminds us that God’s mercy frequently appears through ordinary people who are willing to stop, notice, and care.

Today Jesus tells us that eternal life is not found in theories alone, but in becoming neighbours to those in need. Compassion that crosses boundaries gives life—to the wounded, and also to the one who loves.

But we must also admit that we have sometimes passed by through indifference, fear, selfishness, or judgment. Therefore, with humble hearts, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for mercy.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you teach us to see the suffering of others with hearts moved by compassion: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you crossed every boundary to heal, forgive, and restore life: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to go and do likewise in love and mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who calls us to become neighbours to one another through compassion and mercy, forgive us for the times we have passed by those in need, heal our hardness of heart, strengthen us to love without boundaries, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, whose Son revealed your mercy through compassion that restores life, teach us to recognize our neighbour in every person we meet, and make us generous in tending the wounds of those who suffer, so that your Gospel may be made visible through our lives.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

There is a quiet but striking movement in today's Gospel. It begins with a question: "What must I do?" And it ends with a command: "Go and do likewise." Between those two moments lies a story that shifts everything—not by redefining who my neighbour is, but by revealing what it means to *be* a neighbour.

The Samaritan in the story does something very simple, yet very demanding: he notices. Others saw the wounded man, but they did not really see him. Their seeing remained on the surface. The Samaritan's seeing went deeper—it allowed itself to be disturbed, interrupted, moved. Compassion, in the Gospel, is not a vague feeling; it is a response that begins in the heart and flows into action.

And what action it becomes. He approaches, tends wounds, lifts, carries, provides, pays, and promises to return. Each gesture is small in itself, but together they restore life. The man left half dead is brought back to life because someone allowed compassion to become costly.

What is perhaps most challenging is who this compassionate figure is. Not the priest, not the Levite, but a Samaritan—an outsider, even an enemy. Jesus deliberately places compassion in unexpected hands. It is as if he is saying: do not limit where God can be found. Do not assume who will carry grace.

We may recognize ourselves not only in the Samaritan, but also in the wounded traveller. There are moments when we too are left on the roadside—physically, emotionally, spiritually drained. And often, help comes from those we least expect. Someone we misjudged, someone we overlooked, becomes the bearer of healing. In such moments, God's presence reaches us in surprising ways.

The parable also exposes a temptation we carry: the desire to draw lines. "Who is my neighbour?" we ask, hoping perhaps to define limits. But Jesus shifts the question entirely. The real issue is not whom we must include, but whether we are willing to become people who exclude no one.

Saint Paul, in today's first reading, warns against turning away from the true Gospel. And here is the heart of it: the Gospel is not an abstract idea. It is embodied in compassion that crosses boundaries, that refuses to pass by, that gives life.

To “go and do likewise” does not require grand gestures. It begins with attention—with learning to see as Jesus sees. It grows through small, faithful actions: time given, wounds tended, burdens shared. These are the ordinary ways eternal life begins to take root among us.

There is a story told of an elderly man who slipped on a quiet street and lay there, unable to rise. Cars passed. People walked by. Eventually, a teenager—late for school—stopped, helped him up, and stayed until he was safe. When the boy apologized for being late, the man said, “You weren’t late. You arrived exactly on time.”

That is the invitation of the Gospel: not to calculate, but to respond; not to ask who deserves our care, but to become neighbours wherever need meets us. For in such moments, compassion that crosses boundaries becomes the very place where life is given—and where eternal life quietly begins.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may become an offering of compassion and mercy, as we learn to care for one another without counting the cost, and that it may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, O Lord,
upon the gifts we place upon your altar,
and through this sacred offering
teach us to become faithful neighbours to all who suffer,
so that, renewed by your mercy,
we may bring healing, peace, and hope to the world.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For in your Son Jesus Christ
you revealed the fullness of your mercy.

He drew near to the wounded and the forgotten,
healing the broken, lifting up the fallen,
and teaching us that true greatness
is found in compassionate love.

Through the parable of the Good Samaritan,
you call your people to cross boundaries of fear and
prejudice, to recognize one another as neighbours,
and to become signs of your healing presence in the world.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Jesus teaches us not only to call God our Father, but also
to recognize one another as neighbours and brothers and
sisters in need. Trusting in the Father whose mercy knows
no boundaries, we pray together in the words our Saviour
gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the indifference that passes by the
suffering of others.

Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may become neighbours to all in need
and live always as witnesses of your compassion,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who taught us through your own example
to cross boundaries in love and mercy,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance
with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who heals the wounded and restores life through mercy.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Samaritan did not ask whether the wounded man deserved help. He simply stopped, drew near, and gave life through compassion. In this Eucharist, Christ has drawn near to us. He has tended our wounds, strengthened our weakness, and filled us with his mercy. Now he sends us forth to become neighbours in a wounded world— to notice, to care, and to love without boundaries.

Prayer after Communion

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord,
renew us in mind and heart,
so that, strengthened by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we may become instruments of compassion and healing
for all who are wounded in body, mind, or spirit.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with eyes that truly see the suffering of others, hearts moved with compassion, and hands ready to bring healing and hope. **Amen.**

May Christ Jesus teach you to cross every barrier of fear, prejudice, and indifference, so that through your lives others may encounter the mercy of God. **Amen.**

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by becoming neighbours to all through compassion and mercy.

Take-Home Thought

Compassion begins when we truly notice another person. Every moment of mercy that crosses boundaries becomes a place where God gives life.

6 October, 2026 – Tuesday, 27th Week in Ord. Time

Gal 1:13–24; Lk 10:38–42

The hospitality God desires is a listening heart.

INTRODUCTION

There's a story told of a young seminarian who visited an elderly priest known for his wisdom. Eager to impress, the young man arrived with notebooks full of questions. As soon as he sat down, he began asking them one after another—about prayer, preaching, theology. The old priest listened quietly for a while, then gently poured tea into the young man's cup... and kept pouring until it overflowed. Startled, the seminarian exclaimed, "Father, it's full!" The priest smiled and said, "So are you. Come back when you are ready to listen."

We live in a world that rewards doing, producing, achieving. Even our relationships can become projects to manage rather than spaces to encounter. We can become so full—of plans, worries, words—that there is little room left to truly receive another person.

The same can happen in our relationship with God. We come to prayer with many words, many intentions, many concerns. Yet often God desires not first our activity, but our openness; not first our work, but our listening hearts.

As we gather for this Eucharist, let us acknowledge the times we have been distracted, anxious, impatient, and inattentive to the voice of God and the needs of others. Let us ask the Lord to free our hearts so that we may listen more deeply and celebrate these sacred mysteries worthily.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to sit at your feet and listen with trusting hearts: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you teach us that anxious hearts cannot fully receive your peace: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you invite us to serve with joy flowing from prayerful attentiveness: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we have been too distracted to hear his voice, too anxious to recognize his presence, and too busy to listen with love to one another, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
who teach us that the better part is to remain close to your Son
with hearts open to his word,
grant that amid the busyness and distractions of life
we may learn to listen attentively to your voice
and serve you with peaceful and generous hearts.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

HOMILY

A woman once shared how, after a long and exhausting day, she came home burdened and overwhelmed. She didn't need solutions or advice; she just needed someone to hear her. But as she spoke, her friend kept interrupting—offering suggestions, fixing problems, telling her what to do. Finally, she said, "I don't need you to solve this. I just need you to listen." In that moment, the friend realized that presence can be more healing than action.

In today's Gospel, Martha and Mary offer two different kinds of hospitality to Jesus. Martha gives the hospitality of activity—busy, generous, practical. Mary offers the hospitality of presence—she sits at the Lord's feet and listens. Both forms are good, but on this occasion, Jesus makes it clear which one he desires most.

It's easy to sympathize with Martha. She is doing what many of us would do—trying to make everything right, ensuring that the guest is well cared for. Yet her service becomes anxious, even resentful. Her words to Jesus

reveal her frustration: “Lord, do you not care...?” Activity, when disconnected from attentiveness, can quickly turn into agitation.

Mary, on the other hand, recognizes something essential: Jesus has come not primarily to be served, but to speak—to give, to nourish, to reveal. She chooses to receive. She takes the posture of a disciple, sitting at his feet, listening with openness. She understands that sometimes the greatest act of hospitality is simply to be present.

This is the wisdom echoed in Ecclesiastes: there is a time for everything—a time to act and a time to be still, a time to speak and a time to listen. The challenge is not choosing one over the other forever, but discerning what is needed now. Martha’s mistake was not her service; it was her inability to recognize the moment.

The same tension runs through our own lives. We are often busy—even in good and holy ways. We serve, we help, we give. But if we are not careful, our activity can

crowd out our attentiveness. We can become so focused on doing things for God that we forget to be with God.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, reflects on his own transformation. After his dramatic encounter with Christ, he did not immediately rush into action. There was a time of withdrawal, of listening, of being formed by grace. His mission flowed from that encounter. Like Mary, he first received before he gave.

True Christian life always holds these two together: contemplation and action, listening and serving. The problem is not that we are active, but that we are often active without first being attentive. When we listen to the Lord, our service becomes less anxious, more joyful, more aligned with what is truly needed.

In our relationships too, this Gospel challenges us. How often do we offer people what we think they need, rather than what they are actually asking for? Sometimes the most loving thing we can give is not advice, not solutions, but a listening heart.

There is a final story of a nurse who worked in palliative care. She said that at the end of life, people rarely asked for more treatments or explanations. What they wanted most was someone to sit with them—to hold their hand, to listen, to simply be there. “In the end,” she said, “presence is what matters most.”

Mary chose that presence. She chose what Jesus calls “the better part”—not because service is unimportant, but because listening is the source from which all true service flows. Today, the Lord invites us to the same choice: to make space, to be still, to listen—because the hospitality God desires is a listening heart.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that through these gifts we offer and through hearts attentive to the voice of the Lord, our sacrifice and our lives may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
accept these gifts we bring before you,
and teach us through this holy sacrifice
that true service begins in listening to your Son.
Free us from anxious distractions
and make our lives a joyful offering pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For in your wisdom
you teach us that the deepest hospitality
is not found merely in outward activity,
but in hearts attentive to your presence.
In your Son, who was welcomed into the house of Martha

and Mary, you reveal that those who listen to your word
receive the treasure that never fades.

Through him you call us
to balance service with contemplation,
action with prayer,
so that all we do may flow from communion with you.
In Christ you gather your people
to sit at the feet of the Master
and to be nourished by the word of life.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with trusting hearts to the Father who always
listens to his children:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the restlessness and distractions
that keep us from hearing your voice.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught your disciples to find peace
not in anxious activity
but in remaining close to you and listening to your word.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance
with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who speaks words of eternal life
to all who listen with open hearts.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
in this Eucharist you have drawn near to us
not only to be served,
but to nourish us with your presence and your word.
Teach us to sit quietly before you,
to listen without distraction,
and to carry your peace into our homes, our work, and our
relationships.

May our service flow from prayer,
our words from attentive hearts,
and our lives from communion with you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the reception of this sacrament, O Lord,
teach us to seek before all else the presence of your Son
and to listen faithfully to his word.
Grant that, strengthened by this heavenly food,
we may serve you and one another
with peaceful and generous hearts.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with hearts attentive to his voice.
Amen.

May he free you from anxious distractions and fill you with
the peace that comes from remaining close to him. **Amen.**

And may your service of others always flow from prayer,
love, and joyful listening. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by listening to his word
and serving one another with loving hearts.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The hospitality God desires is not first busy hands,
but a listening heart.”

7 October, 2026 – Wed., 27th Week in Ord. Time

(Our Lady of the Rosary – Memorial)

Gal 2:1–2, 7–14; Lk 11:1–4

*From pondering to surrender: learning to pray with Mary
and with Jesus.*

INTRODUCTION

A young mother once shared that the quietest moment of her day came when she rocked her baby to sleep. In that gentle stillness, she would slowly pray the Rosary, bead by bead, until her anxieties gave way to peace. She realized that prayer was not simply speaking to God, but learning to listen to Him.

Today, on the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Church invites us into that same quiet rhythm of prayer. Mary teaches us to ponder the mysteries of Christ patiently and lovingly, allowing God’s word to take root within us. Through her example, prayer becomes not merely a duty, but a relationship of trust.

In the Gospel, the disciples ask Jesus, “Lord, teach us to

pray.” Deep within every human heart is that same longing—to pray not only with our lips, but with our lives. Jesus answers by teaching us to place the Father first, to trust in His kingdom, and to surrender ourselves to His loving will.

Yet often our prayer becomes narrow and self-centred, shaped more by our fears and demands than by trust in God’s mercy. Therefore, as we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord to teach our hearts to pray with the trust of Mary and the surrender of Christ.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you teach us to call upon God as our loving Father and to trust in His holy will: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you invite us to move from fear and self-concern into the wide mercy of God: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, through the example of Mary, you teach us to ponder your mysteries and surrender our lives to your kingdom: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who patiently teaches us to pray with trusting hearts and forms us through the mysteries of Christ, forgive our sins, heal our narrowness of heart, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, who gave us the Blessed Virgin Mary as a faithful guide in contemplating the mysteries of your Son, grant, we pray,
that through prayer formed by trust and surrender,
we may be transformed ever more into the likeness of Christ and learn to seek above all the coming of your Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

There is a story told of an old fisherman who prayed every morning before setting out to sea. One day, a young man asked him, “What do you say to God each day?” The fisherman replied, “Some days I talk, but most days I just sit and let God look at me—and I try to look at Him.” It was a simple answer, but it revealed a deep truth: prayer is not only about speaking; it is about being present and open. In today’s Gospel, the disciples see Jesus at prayer and are moved to ask, “Lord, teach us to pray.” They recognize that prayer is something to be learned, something to be received. Jesus responds by giving them the “Our Father,” a prayer that begins not with our needs, but with God: “Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.” Before anything else, we are invited to let God be God. This stands in sharp contrast to the attitude we sometimes carry into prayer. Like Jonah in the first reading, we can approach God with our own expectations and demands, wanting God to think and act as we do. Jonah could not accept a God who was merciful to his enemies. His prayer

was honest, but it was narrow, shaped more by his own heart than by God’s.

The prayer Jesus teaches moves us in a different direction. It invites us into surrender—into trusting that God’s will is greater than our own. Only after placing God first do we bring our needs: daily bread, forgiveness, strength in temptation. Even these requests are shaped by trust, not control.

Here is where the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary speaks so beautifully to us. Mary is the one who pondered the mysteries of God and allowed herself to be shaped by them. When she said, “Let it be done to me according to your word,” she embodied the very spirit of the Lord’s Prayer. Her life was a living “yes” to God’s kingdom. When we pray the Rosary, we enter into that same movement—from pondering to surrender. We meditate on the life of Christ, not as distant observers, but as participants who allow those mysteries to form us. Like Mary, we learn to treasure what God is doing and to give ourselves over to it.

Prayer, then, is not about changing God's mind, but about allowing God to change our hearts. It teaches us to desire what God desires, to trust what God is doing, even when it stretches us. It is a gradual transformation, often quiet and hidden, like the steady rhythm of the Rosary beads passing through our fingers.

And so, the simple request of the disciples becomes our own: "Lord, teach us to pray." Teach us to pray with the trust of children, the surrender of Mary, and the openness of Jesus himself. Teach us to move from our own narrow concerns into the wide mercy of God.

There is another story of a man who carried a Rosary in his pocket for years but rarely used it. One day, in a moment of deep crisis, he began to pray it slowly. Later he said, "I didn't realize it at the time, but the prayer was changing me more than I was saying it." That is the quiet miracle of prayer—it shapes us from within, leading us gently, bead by bead, into the heart of God.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar, we may also place before God our hearts, learning with Mary to surrender ourselves completely, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord,
as we offer these gifts in memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
teach us through this sacred sacrifice
to seek not our own will but yours,
and to be formed by the mysteries of Christ
whom we contemplate in faith and love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you gave the Blessed Virgin Mary
a heart attentive to your word
and faithful in surrender to your saving plan.
She pondered the mysteries of her Son with love
and became the model of all who seek you in prayer.

Through the humble rhythm of the Rosary,
you draw your people ever more deeply
into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ,
teaching us to trust your mercy
and to desire the coming of your Kingdom above all else.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy ...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with the trust of children, the surrender of Mary,
and the openness of heart that seeks above all the
Kingdom of God:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the narrowness of heart
that keeps us from trusting in your mercy.
Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
teach us to surrender ourselves more fully to your will
and to await in joyful hope
the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your disciples to pray with
trusting hearts and revealed the mercy of the Father to all
people. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your
Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who teaches us to trust the Father completely
and surrender ourselves to His will.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Prayer changes us quietly, often without our noticing. Like
beads passing gently through our fingers, the mysteries of
Christ slowly shape our hearts. In this Eucharist, the Lord
has drawn us deeper into His life. May Mary teach us to
treasure His presence, trust His mercy, and surrender
ourselves each day to the will of the Father.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we humbly
pray, O Lord, that through the loving intercession of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, you may teach us to persevere in
prayer, to ponder deeply the mysteries of Christ,
and to surrender our lives ever more fully to your saving
will. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and teach your hearts to pray with
trust and perseverance. **Amen.**
May the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to ponder the
mysteries of Christ and surrender yourselves joyfully to
God's will. **Amen.**
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives shaped through
prayer, trust, and surrender.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Prayer is not about changing God's mind, but allowing God
to change our hearts. Like Mary, we learn—bead by bead,
day by day—to move from pondering to surrender.

8 October, 2026 – Thursday, 27th Week in Ord. Time

Gal 3:1–5; Lk 11:5–13

INTRODUCTION

During a severe drought, a small town gathered every evening to pray for rain. For weeks nothing happened. Then one evening, a little boy arrived carrying an umbrella. While others prayed with uncertainty, he came expecting God to answer. That child's simple trust revealed what many adults had forgotten: true prayer is confident and persevering.

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that prayer is not a single request quickly forgotten, but a continuing relationship with the Father. "Ask... seek... knock." These words invite us to remain faithful even when answers seem delayed.

Jesus also reminds us that God's greatest gift is not merely the solution to our problems, but the Holy Spirit—the divine presence that strengthens, guides, and transforms us from

within. Persistent prayer gradually opens our hearts to receive this gift.

Yet there are times when we lose heart in prayer, times when doubt replaces trust and impatience weakens our faith. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord to renew in us a persevering and confident spirit.

Penitential Act with Kyrie Invocations

Lord Jesus, You teach us to ask with confidence and to trust in the Father's goodness: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You give us the Holy Spirit to strengthen us when our faith grows weak: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You never tire of listening to the prayers of Your people: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen our hearts in persevering prayer, and fill us with the grace of the Holy Spirit, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who invite Your children
to ask, to seek, and to knock with persevering faith,
grant that through the gift of the Holy Spirit
we may grow in trust, patience, and confidence in Your
loving care, and remain steadfast in prayer amid all the
uncertainties of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A priest once shared the story of a parishioner who would come into the church every day at the same hour, sit quietly for a few minutes, and then leave. Curious, the priest asked him what he did during that time. The man replied, “I just sit there and say, ‘Lord, here I am.’ And then I listen.” When the priest asked if God ever spoke, the man smiled and said, “He listens too.”

That quiet fidelity captures something essential about today’s Gospel. Jesus speaks of a man knocking on his friend’s door at midnight, and of a child asking a parent for food. Both images come from ordinary life, yet they reveal something extraordinary about God. If even human relationships can be marked by generosity and care, how much more can we rely on God.

“Ask... seek... knock.” In the original language, these are not one-time actions but ongoing ones: *keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking*. Jesus is not inviting us to occasional prayer, but to a relationship marked by persistence. Not because God is reluctant, but because prayer shapes our hearts to receive what God is always ready to give.

We often approach prayer as a way of getting what we want. And there is nothing wrong with bringing our needs before God. The prayer of petition is deeply human and deeply biblical. As Saint Paul reminds the Galatians in today’s first reading, it is not by our own efforts but by faith

that we receive God's gifts. Prayer is an expression of that faith—a recognition that we need God.

Yet Jesus gently redirects us. At the end of the Gospel, He tells us what we should ask for above all: the Holy Spirit. This is striking. We might expect Him to say health, success, or solutions to our problems. Instead, He points to the Spirit—the very life of God within us.

Why? Because the Holy Spirit is the gift that transforms everything else. The Spirit gives us strength when answers seem delayed, peace when circumstances remain difficult, and wisdom to see God's presence even in uncertainty. The Spirit does not always change our situation immediately, but changes us within it.

There is also a quiet challenge here. If we are honest, we sometimes give up too quickly in prayer. We knock once or twice, and when the door does not open as we expect, we walk away. But Jesus invites us to remain—to keep knocking, not because God is absent, but because something deeper is being formed within us.

And perhaps that is the hidden grace: persistent prayer gradually aligns our desires with God's desires. We begin by asking for many things, but over time, we learn to ask for what truly matters. Like the child who trusts the parent, we grow in confidence that God gives what is good, even if it is not always what we first imagined.

A final story. A man once spent years praying for a particular intention that never seemed to be answered. Frustrated, he eventually said to a wise friend, "God never gave me what I asked for." The friend replied, "Maybe not. But who have you become while asking?" The man paused—and realized that through those years of prayer, he had grown more patient, more compassionate, more trusting. In ways he had not noticed, God had already answered him.

That is the promise of today's Gospel. When we keep asking, seeking, and knocking, God does respond—not always in the ways we expect, but always by giving us what we most need: His Spirit, His presence, His life within us.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that this sacrifice, offered with trusting and persevering hearts, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, accept the gifts we place upon Your altar, and through this sacred offering teach us to seek above all the gift of Your Holy Spirit, so that our prayer may become ever more faithful and our lives more fully conformed to Your will. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For You never cease to care for Your children and to listen to the prayers of those who call upon You with faith.

In Your Son Jesus Christ, You have shown us the way of trusting prayer, teaching us to ask, to seek, and to knock with perseverance.

You do not abandon Your people in their need, but generously bestow upon them the Holy Spirit, who strengthens the weak, consoles the weary, and transforms hearts according to Your will. And so, with Angels and Saints, we praise You, as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy,**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray with confidence to the Father who never fails to hear His children:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and graciously sustain us when prayer becomes difficult or our hearts grow weary, that, by the help of Your mercy, we may continue to ask, seek, and knock with trusting faith as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You taught us to trust in the Father's goodness
and to persevere in prayer without losing heart;
look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance
with Your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who strengthens us
with the gift of His Spirit and teaches us to trust without
ceasing. Blessed are those called to the supper of the
Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, so often we come to You asking for many things,
yet in this Eucharist You remind us
that Your greatest gift is Your very presence within us.

Teach us to remain faithful in prayer,
especially when answers seem delayed.
Form our hearts through waiting, trusting, and seeking,
until our deepest desire becomes simply to live in Your
Spirit.

May this Communion strengthen us
to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking,
with the quiet confidence of children
who know they are loved by their Father.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the reception of this holy Sacrament, O Lord,
strengthen us in persevering prayer
and fill us with the grace of the Holy Spirit,
so that, trusting always in Your fatherly care,
we may walk faithfully in the way of Christ.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with persevering faith,
teach you to trust Him in every circumstance,
and fill your hearts with the gift of His Holy Spirit.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives rooted in trusting
and persevering prayer.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Persistent prayer does not simply change our
circumstances; it gradually changes our hearts, opening us
to the greatest gift God desires to give—the Holy Spirit.

9 October, 2026 – Friday, 27th Week in Ord. Time

Gal 3:7–14; Lk 11:15–26

Learning to recognize the finger of God

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of a child who was shown a beautiful painting. At first he saw only confusion—colours scattered without meaning. But when he stepped back and looked more carefully, he began to discover shapes, faces, and a hidden story. What first appeared chaotic slowly revealed its beauty.

We too can look at life too quickly. We judge people by appearances, interpret situations too hastily, and sometimes fail to notice the quiet signs of goodness and grace around us. Often, the finger of God is present in ways that are simple, hidden, and easily overlooked.

In today's Gospel, Jesus heals a man and restores his speech, yet some accuse him of acting through the power of evil. They witness goodness, but refuse to recognize its

true source. Their hearts have become closed to the presence of God already at work among them.

As we gather around this altar, let us ask the Lord to heal our vision whenever we have judged harshly, dismissed goodness, or failed to recognize his presence in others and in our daily lives. And so, we prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you reveal the finger of God in acts of mercy and compassion: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you open our eyes to recognize goodness and grace in others: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to trust in your kingdom already at work among us: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we have been blind to his grace, slow to recognize goodness, and quick to judge others, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, whose loving hand is quietly at work in every age, open the eyes of our hearts to recognize the signs of your kingdom among us. Free us from narrow judgment and hardened hearts, that we may rejoice in the goodness you sow in the world and remain faithful to your truth even when misunderstood. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A man once shared how he had a difficult colleague at work. He found him abrupt, unfriendly, even arrogant. Over time, he quietly labelled him as someone impossible to deal with. But one day, he discovered that this same colleague had been caring for a seriously ill parent for years, juggling sleepless nights and emotional strain. Suddenly, everything looked different. What he had judged harshly now appeared in a new light.

In today's Gospel, something similar—but far more dramatic—unfolds. Jesus heals a man who could not speak. It is an act of restoration, of compassion, of life-giving power. Yet instead of rejoicing, some accuse him of working through Beelzebul, the prince of demons. They do not deny the good; they deny its source. They see light, but insist it is darkness.

This is not just a misunderstanding; it is a deep distortion of vision. To call good evil is perhaps the most serious kind of blindness. Jesus responds firmly: “If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” In other words, what they are witnessing is God's reign breaking into their lives—if only they had eyes to see.

We might wonder how anyone could make such a mistake. Yet the Gospel suggests that this tendency lies within all of us. We can be quick to judge, quick to label, quick to suspect the worst. Like the image Jesus uses elsewhere,

we notice the speck in another's eye while missing the plank in our own.

Saint Paul, in the first reading, reminds us that those who have faith are children of Abraham, called to trust in God's promise rather than rely on narrow human judgments. Faith opens our eyes; it teaches us to see beyond appearances and to recognize God's action in unexpected places.

The Gospel invites us, then, to become attentive to what Jesus calls “the finger of God.” This divine presence is not always found in dramatic or spectacular signs. More often, it is revealed in quiet acts of kindness, in forgiveness offered, in patience shown, in the simple presence of someone who listens and cares.

Yet if we are not attentive, we can miss it. Worse, we might even dismiss it. A “jaundiced” vision of life—one that always expects the worst—can blind us to grace. When we constantly focus on what is wrong, we lose the ability to recognize what is good.

Jesus, however, sees differently. He is always alert to the smallest signs of goodness in others. Even in those who feel unworthy or sinful, he recognizes the beginnings of grace. He calls us to share in that same generous vision—to be people who notice and nurture the good rather than condemn and dismiss.

There is also a challenge here about fidelity. Jesus was misunderstood, even accused unjustly, yet he did not abandon his mission. He remained steadfast, trusting in the Father. At times, doing what is right may lead to misunderstanding in our own lives. The Gospel encourages us not to lose heart, but to remain faithful.

A woman once planted a small garden in a neglected corner of her neighbourhood. At first, people mocked her efforts. “Nothing will grow there,” they said. But she persisted—watering, tending, believing. Months later, flowers began to bloom. What others had dismissed as barren became a place of beauty. Those who once criticized now stopped to admire.

That is what it means to recognize the *finger of God*: to see possibility where others see nothing, to notice grace where others see failure, to trust that God is quietly at work even when it is not obvious. And when we learn to see in this way, we begin not only to recognize God’s presence—but to reflect it in our own lives.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that, learning to recognize the quiet work of God in our lives and offering him hearts open to grace and goodness, our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts we place upon your altar, and purify our hearts from every blindness and harsh judgment. May this offering help us to recognize your presence in the ordinary moments of life and strengthen us to remain faithful to your will. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your Son, Jesus Christ,
you revealed the nearness of your kingdom
through works of mercy, healing, and compassion.
When hearts were hardened and eyes refused to see,
he continued to proclaim your truth with patience and
fidelity, showing that your power is made known
not through force,
but through love that restores and gives life.

Through him you teach us to recognize your hand at work
in quiet acts of goodness, in forgiveness offered, in
kindness shared, and in hope that perseveres even amid
misunderstanding.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father who opens our
eyes to recognize his kingdom already among us.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the blindness that prevents us from
recognizing your grace at work in our lives and in others.
Grant us hearts that trust in your goodness and remain
steadfast in faith, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you revealed the finger of God through
mercy, healing, and reconciliation.

Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance
with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who opens our eyes to the presence of God among us and
calls us to trust in his saving love.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
you continue to work quietly in our lives,
often in ways we do not immediately recognize.
Teach us to see with hearts of faith—
to notice goodness, welcome grace,
and trust that your kingdom is near.
May this Eucharist make us people
who reflect your compassion and reveal your presence to
others.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that through the strength of
this heavenly sacrament we may grow in wisdom and
charity, learning to recognize your loving presence in our
daily lives and becoming faithful witnesses to your
kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord open your eyes to recognize his presence in
the ordinary moments of life. **Amen.**

May he free your hearts from harsh judgment and deepen
your trust in his goodness. **Amen.**

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by recognizing and
nurturing the good wherever God's grace is at work.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faith teaches us to see differently: not with suspicion or
harshness, but with hearts attentive to the quiet signs of
God's grace already at work around us.

10 October, 2026 – Saturday, 27th Week in Ord. Time

Gal 3:22–29; Lk 11:27–28

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”

INTRODUCTION

A young apprentice once worked under a master craftsman. Every day, the master explained carefully what needed to be done and how it should be done. The apprentice listened attentively and nodded in agreement, yet the work was often left unfinished or poorly done. Finally, the master said to him, “You heard my words, but you did not truly listen, because you did not act.”

We know that experience in our own lives. Many voices fill our ears every day, but only a few truly shape our hearts. Real listening always leads to response. Words that remain only in the mind never bear fruit.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus teaches us where true blessedness is found: not simply in hearing the word of God, but in keeping it. Mary herself became blessed

because she listened with faith and allowed God’s word to take root in her life.

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask pardon for the times we have admired the Gospel without living it, heard God’s word without obeying it, and closed our hearts to the transforming power of his voice.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to hear the word of God with attentive hearts: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you teach us that true blessedness comes from keeping your word: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you give us Mary as the model of faithful listening and obedience: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we have listened without responding, heard his word without allowing it to shape our lives, and failed to live as faithful disciples; and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
who teach us that true blessedness is found
in hearing your word and keeping it faithfully,
grant us hearts that listen with trust
and lives that bear fruit through loving obedience,
so that, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may become disciples formed by your truth and grace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

There is a story of a grandmother who loved to bake bread. Every weekend, she would invite her grandchildren into the kitchen. She would explain each step—how to measure, how to knead, how to wait patiently for the dough to rise. One child listened carefully and followed every instruction. Another watched with interest but quickly lost patience and began doing things his own way. At the end,

one loaf was fragrant and full of life; the other was flat and hard. The difference was not in hearing the instructions, but in keeping them.

In today's Gospel, a woman in the crowd is so moved by Jesus that she cries out, "Blessed is the womb that bore you." It is a spontaneous and sincere expression of admiration. She recognizes that someone so extraordinary must have come from a blessed mother.

Jesus does not reject her words. Instead, he expands them. "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it." With this response, Jesus shifts the focus from a unique biological relationship to a universal spiritual calling.

Mary, of course, remains truly blessed. But her deepest blessedness does not come simply from being the mother of Jesus. It comes from something even more fundamental—her openness to God's word. When the angel spoke to her, she did not merely hear; she

responded, “Let it be to me according to your word.” Her whole life became an echo of that “yes.”

In this way, Mary is not only the mother of Jesus; she is also the model disciple. She shows us what it means to truly hear and keep God’s word. She listened, she pondered, and she allowed that word to shape her entire life.

This is where the Gospel meets us. We may not be called to Mary’s unique role, but we are all invited into her way of living. Jesus’ beatitude is not reserved for a few; it is open to all. Anyone who hears God’s word and keeps it enters into that same blessedness.

The first reading reminds us that, in Christ, all distinctions fall away. “You are all one in Christ Jesus.” The invitation to hear and keep God’s word is given equally to everyone—regardless of background, status, or role. Holiness is not about privilege; it is about response.

But keeping God’s word is not always easy. It requires patience, trust, and often sacrifice. It means allowing God’s voice to challenge our habits and reshape our priorities. It asks us not just to admire the Gospel, but to live it—especially when it is inconvenient or demanding.

There is a final story of a man who carried a small Bible with him wherever he went. He knew many passages by heart and often spoke about them. One day, a friend asked him, “Of all those words you know, which one has changed your life the most?” The man paused and admitted, “The ones I actually tried to live.”

And that is the quiet truth at the heart of today’s Gospel. Blessedness is not found in hearing alone, but in allowing what we hear to take flesh in our lives. Like Mary, we are called not just to receive the word, but to become people shaped by it—so that, in us, the Word may continue to live and bear fruit.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice, offered with hearts ready to hear and keep God's word, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive the gifts we place upon your altar,
and through this sacred offering
teach us to live what we profess with our lips,
so that your word may bear lasting fruit in our lives.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your mercy you speak your word to your people,
calling us out of darkness into the light of faith.
You revealed in the Blessed Virgin Mary

the perfect response of a listening heart,
for she heard your word with trust
and kept it with unwavering love.

In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you invite all people into the blessedness of discipleship,
teaching us that holiness is found
not merely in hearing your voice
but in allowing your word to shape our lives.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by the divine word
that calls us to faithful living, we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and free us from the hardness of heart
that keeps us from listening to your voice.
Grant that your word may take root within us
and guide our thoughts, our choices, and our actions,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us that blessedness belongs
to those who hear the word of God and keep it.
Look not on our failures and distractions,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who calls us not only
to hear his word but to live by it.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, your word has been spoken to us,
and your Body has been given to us.
Teach us now to carry what we have received into daily
life. Like Mary, may we treasure your word in our hearts,
allow it to shape our decisions,
and let it bear fruit through acts of faith, patience, and love.
May our lives become a living response to your grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries,
we humbly pray, O Lord,
that through the grace of this Eucharist
we may faithfully keep the word we have heard
and become ever more conformed to Christ your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you with hearts attentive to his word,
strength to live what you have heard,
and the grace to follow the example of Mary in faithful
obedience.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by living his word in your
daily lives.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Blessedness begins when God’s word moves from our
ears into our lives.”